

age, towards the Vice-Roy, who thereupon privately left the place, in order to the putting himself into a better condition, for the quieting these disorders, which upon the arrival of a Squadron of Spanish Gallies there, he accordingly did, so that at the coming away of this Vessel; all things were settled in an entire quietness again.

*Hamburg, Decemb. 22.* Yesterday arrived here the Duke and Dutchess of *Meckelenburgh*; who may, as is thought, pass some of the Winter here. Monsieur *Pompane*, late Ambassador from his most Christian Majesty at the Court of Sweden, is at present here on his return home; the ways hereabouts being at present very bad and difficult to pass, he may be forced to stay some days here; the general report in the mean time being, that he is to pass through *Holland*, to receive the Proposals of those States, in matter of Commerce, &c.

By several Passengers lately arrived out of the Territories of the Duke of *Luxemburgh*, we have advice, that those Dukes Forces had all orders to prepare for a march, on what design was not known, though some people seem to apprehend, it may be against *Hildesheim*.

Our Letters from *Moskow* speak so variously of the present condition of affairs about *Astracan*, that we are wholly in the dark, as to the truth of any thing; from *Riga* they tell us, as if the Rebels had lately been abroad in several parties, who meeting with no considerable resistance, had done much mischief to the Neighbouring Countries.

*Cologne, Decemb. 25.* The respective Deputies here, continue their Conferences with the same earnestness as formerly, and with the same success; things remaining thus in one posture, we have nothing to advise from hence, save that we daily hear of more Forces drawing down towards these parts.

*Paris, Dec. 30.* On Monday next, it is said, the King begins his journey for *Chalons*, where there will be, besides other Forces, a Rendezvous of about 12000 men, which have been raised in several parts abroad this Summer; his Majesty intending to be back again at *St. Germain*, in fourteen days at farthest. We are told, that the Heer *Grothus*, Ambassador of the States General of the *United Provinces*, hath prevailed so far, as to obtain at length; a promise that he shall have a private Audience of the King yet before his departure.

It is said that the Marquis *Villars*, Ambassador from his Majesty at the Court at *Madrid*; hath orders to press the Queen Regent, to give a final Declaration in writing, how she will carry her self in the present conjuncture of Affairs; that so his Majesty may know how to take his measures accordingly. The Cardinal *de Retz* is suddenly expected at this Court.

*Brussels, January 1.* His Excellency hath lately augmented the Soldiers pay, as well Horse as Foot, from eight to nine Months in a year, and its said, his Excellency will yet add one Month more to them, so that they shall for the future have ten Months pay in the year!

Monsieur *de Louvois*, lately arrived from *Paris*, to visit by his most Christian Majesties order, the French places and Fortifications in these Countries, was on Sunday last at *Aeths*, where he intended to stay some days, to take a review of the Forces in that Garrison; and then, as was there said, to pass to *Lorraine*, and so to meet the King at the General Rendezvous at *Chalons*, about the 15 of the next Month.

The Baron *de Risincourt*, having finally concluded an agreement with his Excellency for two Regi-

ments, one of Horse and the other of Foot, to come into the service of these Provinces, under the Command of the Prince *de Vaudemont*; he hath sent an Express to the Duke of *Boyrne*, at present at *Cologne*, with an account of what hath passed, so that we suddenly expect here that Prince, with the said Troops under his Command. His Excellency hath again issued a very severe Order, requiring all Governors, and other Military Officers, to repair forthwith to their respective Commands.

*Whitohal, Dec. 27.* His Majesty hath been graciously pleased, to issue his Proclamation of the 22 instant, to this Effect; That his Majesty having lately sent Sr. *Charles Wheeler*, his Lieutenant General &c. of *St. Christophers*, and the other Leeward Islands; with such Directions and Instructions, as might best tend to the general Good and Welfare of all his Subjects there; and especially for the encouragement of the English to returne and resettle at *St. Christophers*; his Majesty hath nevertheless been informed, that the said Sr. *Charles Wheeler*, had on or about the 24 of *August* last past, caused a Proclamation to be published at *St. Christophers*; thereby endeavoring to oblige the former Inhabitants and Proprietors, to appear before a certain Court of Claymes, by him there erected; and to return with a Stock, sufficient to the quantity of Land they claim, on peril of losing such part of their Estates, they shall not be able to Stock, which shall be given to them who are better able; And moreover to be Contributory to all Levies, to be made for satisfaction of the French Demands, upon any Article of the Peace at *Breda*; or for satisfaction of any other disbursements, concerning Fortifications or any other Publicke Expences; with a farther menacing intimation, to all such as shall be found to have acted, in the late rendition of the Island to the French; or have been guilty of any Cowardise or Folly in that Warr, that they are not to expect the like advantages with others: And with a Declaration, that a Quitrent should be reserved on every mans Estate; with allowance of no longer time than a Month, to such Persons as were in any of the Leeward Islands, and three Months to others for putting in their Claims; Which Proclamation of the said Sr. *Charles Wheeler*, being altogether contrary to his Majesties Royal Intentions and Instructions given him; His Majesty, to prevent the ill Consequence it may have, Doth declare the said Proclamation, and every thing therein contained, to be Null and Void to all Intents and Purposes: His Majesty farther Declaring, for the encouragement of the late Planters and Proprietors at *St. Christophers*, That all and every the late Planters, shall be admitted to enjoy their respective Plantations, carrying with them such stock onely, as they are able to provide, with these Restrictions onely, that they who sold their Plantations to the French, shall be obliged, to reimburse the Purchaser, the Money they received for the same, within one year, to be accounted from the 15 of *July* 1671; and that they who have not sold their Estates to the French, shall be obliged to return before the 25 of *December* 1672: His Majesty farther declaring, that no Tax, Imposition, &c. shall be imposed upon any Lands or Tenements there, unless it be by vertue of some publick Law made by the Assembly of the said Island; His Majesty farther declaring, all and every the Inhabitants, Proprietors, &c. of that Island, freed and indemnified of all Crimes, Offences, &c. by them committed, during the late War in the said Island.